

ALICE WALSH.

JUNE 20, 1898.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. PASCO, from the Committee on Claims, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 955.]

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the bill (S. 955) for the relief of Alice Walsh, have carefully considered the same and submit the following report thereon:

It is alleged that Alice Walsh, the claimant, was the sister or niece and the only surviving heir of Patrick F. Duggan, who was employed in the Freedman's Bureau during the months of August and September and a part of October, 1867.

It is claimed that his salary during those months and during a part of the month of October of the same year, amounting to \$240 in all, was never paid. Letters from the Auditor for the War Department, in the Treasury Department, dated January 9 and 19, 1897, addressed to a Member of the House of Representatives, show that the service was rendered, and that a certificate for \$200 was issued for his compensation during the said months of August and September. Duggan served for twelve days in October, for which no certificate was issued, and there is no evidence in the Department of the payment of his salary during that time.

The certificate for \$200 was never paid, but although it appears to have been lost its actual destruction has not been proved. It is just and right that the amount of salary due Duggan at the time of his death be paid, whether included in the certificate or not; but if the certificate was lost by him or his legal representative, then it is proper that the Government be protected against a lawful holder of it, into whose hands it may have come for a valuable consideration, before paying the amount to the claimant.

For the protection of the Government and to insure the payment of whatever is due to the party the following amendment is proposed:

Add at the end of the bill:

upon satisfactory proof that she is his only surviving heir and legal representative: *Provided, however,* That the sum of two hundred dollars be not paid until the said Alice Walsh shall file with the Secretary a good and sufficient bond, in double said amount, to protect the United States against any demand that may be made by any lawful holder of the certificate issued to the said Patrick F. Duggan for his said services rendered in the months of August and September aforesaid.

It is further recommended that the preamble be stricken out, and that when the bill is thus amended it do pass.

